



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

23 Aug 2003

Volume I Issue 33

### **Medics use new tracking system to administer anthrax immunizations**

**Story and photo by Spc. Anthony Reinoso  
372nd MPAD**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – There are thousands of soldiers based at the Baghdad International Airport, and for many, the next anthrax immunizations are due. Medics from some other units are consolidating under 1st Armored Division to apply a new system to keep track of soldiers' medical records.

Soldiers' medical records change hands regularly between shots, anthrax being one of many, physical examinations and possible operations or surgeries. Some shots may be given back at home station or a mobilization site prior to a deployment.

"Different units tend to do things different ways. It is usually up to the NCOIC (noncommissioned officer in charge) to track these medical records," said Spc. George Ivey, health care specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, unit records are often consolidated so that a single system can be used to avoid confusion.

The medical occupational data system (MODS) is a database that is linked with the Pentagon system, which keeps military records, including medical records, online to give authorized personnel access to a soldier's information anywhere in the world.

According to Sgt. Sandrene Anthony, health care specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, the intention is that, with the new military identification cards and passwords each soldier keeps confidential, all of that soldier's military information can be stored on the computer chip which is on the ID card, doing away with endless paper trails.

"It is great. It saves a lot of people the hassle," said Anthony, "but we still need the paper files in case the computer breaks down."

The MODS proves to be a handy aid for soldiers, but is not a substitute for hard copy files. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, many soldiers are sent on days and weeks-long missions away from their base of operations. MODS can allow a soldier to keep up with vital vaccinations and can streamline the efficiency of medical units giving such immunizations to large groups in numerous units.

According to Ivey, the medics are continuing with the anthrax immunization program. The 1st Armored Division medics have consolidated so that all personnel at the Baghdad International Airport can receive the dose of anthrax vaccination they need.



Spc. Eugenia Miller, right, health care specialist, 501st Military Police Company, 1st Armored Division, gives an anthrax immunization shot to a soldier at the Baghdad International Airport.

"It is a six-shot series," Ivey said. "This is continuing all the series."

According to Spc. Eugenia Miller, health care specialist, 501st Military Police Company, 1st Armored Division, only anthrax shots are being given at present, but in the near future there will be immunizations for diseases such as hepatitis A and hepatitis B.

## NEWS

### **U.N. Iraq Blast Possible 'Inside Job'**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. investigators suspect the suicide truck bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad was an inside job and are questioning Iraqi employees and guards, many of whom were put into their positions with the world body by Saddam Hussein's security service, a top American official said Friday. Bernard Kerik, the former New York police commissioner who is working to re-establish an Iraqi police force, said the placement of the truck bomb and the timing had raised suspicions. The truck was placed as near as it could have been to the office of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the top U.N. envoy and one of 23 people killed in the attack. The bomb went off as a high-level official meeting was in progress in the office.

### **Israeli Troops Kill Wanted Man on Roof**

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) - Israeli troops on Friday fired at three Palestinian fugitives hiding on the roof of a hospital, killing one and seriously wounding two, witnesses said. Soldiers patrolling Nablus spotted the three men on the roof of Rafidiyeh Hospital, where they had sought refuge from an Israeli arrest raid, now in its third day.

### Chaplain's thought for the day:

## Holy Man

Word spread across the countryside about the wise Holy Man who lived in a small house atop the mountain. A man from the village decided to make the long and difficult journey to visit him. When he arrived at the house, he saw an old servant inside who greeting him at the door. "I would like to see the wise Holy Man," he said to the servant. The servant smiled and led him inside. As they walked through the house, the man from the village looked eagerly around the house, anticipating his encounter with the Holy Man. Before he knew it, he had been led to the back door and escorted outside. He stopped and turned to the servant, "But I want to see the Holy Man!" "You already have," said the old man. "Everyone you may meet in life, even if they appear plain and insignificant... see each of them as a wise Holy Man. If you do this, then whatever problem you brought here today will be solved."

## Court Report

### DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Information regarding discipline imposed by the CG and courts-martial tried within 1AD will be published weekly in the Admin FRAGO and in the 1AD Newsletter. No action is required. POC is the SJA.

The Commanding General, 1AD, imposed the following discipline during the week of 10-17 August:

- 1 x Article 15 for Dereliction of Duty (giving soldiers the keys to a vehicle to go off post for an unauthorized purpose), **imposed on an E-7.**
- 3 x General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand for Dereliction of Duty (failing to enforce force protection standards), imposed on 3 CPTs.

In addition, the following courts-martial were tried:

- 1 x Summary Court Martial, for Assault (pointing a loaded weapon at another soldier), imposed on a SPC. The soldier was convicted and sentenced.

## *A Smart Tip from 1AD Safety*

### **What is a Near Miss?**

Any time an accident occurs statistics say that the conditions were right for that accident to happen many times in the past. But for one reason or another the accident was avoided. For example a soldier is hurt because a vehicle he is working on falls off the jack stand. Statistics say the conditions, which caused this accident to occur, existed many times before it actually happened but for luck, timing or some other reason it was avoided. That means when you see conditions conducive for an accident but no accident occurs it's a NEAR MISS.

**Eventually NEAR MISSES become an Accident**

## **This Day in History:**

*August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1877*

Texas Ranger John Armstrong arrests John Wesley Hardin in a Florida rail car, returning the outlaw to Texas to stand trial for murder. Three years earlier, Hardin had killed Deputy Sheriff Charles Webb in a small town near Austin, Texas. Webb's murder was one in a long series of killings committed by the famous outlaw-the 39th by Hardin's own count. Killing a lawman, however, was an especially serious offense. For three years, Hardin was able to elude the Rangers. Nonetheless, the Rangers eventually unmasked his secret identity and dispatched John Armstrong to track him down.

Source: historychannel.com